



ONSLow VILLAGE
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

THE VILLAGE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION — ISSUE FOURTEEN SEPTEMBER 2008

Cheerio to Colin

Colin Sparrow has linked his last sausage as proprietor of R Sparrow & Son and hung up his butcher's apron to take a well-earned retirement. Many friends, neighbours and customers called in to say goodbye on his last day at the shop in The Square on 19th July and his cheery visage will be much-missed. We wish Colin a long and happy retirement.

We are delighted to report that the village hasn't lost its butcher however, as the business, including the name, has been taken over as a going concern. We'd like to welcome the new owners and wish them every success in their new venture.



Hedges and highways

Late summer is a good time to cut hedges, so as the holidays draw to a close, they should be looking much neater! If you have a hedge that's next to a footpath, please do make sure it's cut back sufficiently to allow pedestrians to walk by it unimpeded.

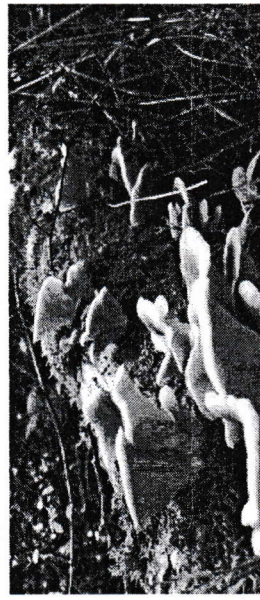
Talking of things becoming overgrown, the traffic islands in Curling Vale are a rather sorry sight, having become overrun with weeds and self-seeded plants. We contacted Guildford Borough Council for help in July, who referred us to Surrey County Council Highways Department, but when we checked on progress a few weeks later, we were told it had to be passed back to GBC. We are awaiting a reply. We've also alerted SCC to the overgrown vegetation either side of The Drive and an inspector has agreed that it needs cutting back. A Community Gang is scheduled to carry out the work in the next few weeks.

When OVRA members alert us to a problem, the members of the committee will do what they can to help, by finding out who's responsible for putting things right and then passing that information back to the member, or sometimes they will contact the relevant authority direct, if the member would find it difficult to do it themselves. We do our best, but as most of the committee have families and jobs to keep them busy, it's not always possible to do as much as we'd like to, so we encourage residents to report problems themselves wherever possible.

If you have internet access, many problems (eg overgrown vegetation) can be reported online. Go to www.surreycc.gov.uk then click on "Roads and transport", then "Road maintenance and cleaning" then "Reporting a problem". To find out what you can



Fungus is not the Bogeyman!



FREEFALL FROM 30,000 FEET!

Part Two of an article about OV resident Andy Morgan, by kind permission of the author Ron McGill.

A crucial day for Andy came on 21 December 1943 when 602 joined up with 132 Squadron for a major sweep over France, turning across the Cambrai area and flying back to England. The large formation of Spitfires was at 30,000 feet when they were 'bounced' by a group of FW190s. In their first devastating pass the Germans hit five Spitfires. Four of the RAF pilots were killed instantly while Andy Morgan's machine sustained severe damage. In his book, Pierre Closterman writes how he became suddenly aware that his wingman Andy had been hit and was out of control and spinning away from the formation.

Explosion of cannon shells

The first Andy knew he was a target came with the shattering explosion of cannon shells hitting his engine. The propeller stopped spinning and there was a complete loss of power. Burning oil splashed across his windscreen. Andy knew only too well that he was badly damaged and his slowly spinning Spitfire was now alone in the sky and a lame duck for any passing enemy aircraft.

Though barely conscious, the pilot realized he was too high to bale out and without any deliberate thoughts or actions, he used the still functioning joystick and wings to get the crippled aircraft under some control. Andy knew he was by now at around 28,000 feet in a Spitfire that was going down at ever increasing speed with no flaps, brakes etc to halt his plunge. His training now came to the fore and he managed to get some control on the steep dive by pulling the nose up to lose speed, at the same time avoiding the dreaded stalls that would again send him hurtling earthwards.

At about this stage Andy recalls he made the decision to stay with his Spitfire rather than taking to his parachute. This uneven descent gradually brought him within sight of the ground and he realized that his crippled – but silent – aircraft was bound for a heavy forced landing at best. Suddenly he saw a ploughed

field ahead and with no choice, made a fast 'wheels up' approach and crashed to the ground. Andy's wonderful Spitfire did the job, hitting the soil at a remarkably good angle and thrusting its way through the mud to come to rest adjacent to a main road with several German lorries parked under the trees. These troops had seen the silent Spitfire approaching in a shallow dive and were there to pull him out of the cockpit before he could destroy his aircraft... his crippled but blessed No 492!

Safe arrival on the ground

Captured and on his way to Lille prison, Andy had time to mutter a few Scottish prayers for his safe arrival on the ground after his freefall from 30,000 feet without power. Subsequently, Pierre Closterman was astonished to learn that Andy, his wingman, had survived this air battle and he was delighted that he was safe as a prisoner-of-war.

After the usual grilling by German officers Andy was sent to Germany to Stalag 4B on the River Elbe, the subsequent meeting place between Russia and American forces in April 1945.

The end of the war dealt Andy another blow when he was 'liberated' by the Red Army who subsequently refused to repatriate the British prisoners back to the UK. Instead they insisted that all the White Russians who had fought for Germany and who were now in the hands of the Western Allies should be returned to the USSR before we could have our servicemen back. The British Government knew only too well that the chances of survival for the White Russians would be bleak once back in their homeland. It was a dreadful quandary. In the end, the desire for the return of our own prisoners became so great that the authorities gave way and turned the White Russians and their families over to Stalin, who predictably exacted a grim revenge. The rights and wrongs of this decision rumble on in political and military circles even to this day.



Come to our next talk on **Tuesday 9th September 7.30pm** at the Village Hall and find out about **native fungi and their importance to the survival of our woodlands.**

The speaker will be Michael Jordan, chairman of the Association of British Fungus Groups.

Entry is free for OVRA members and £3 for non-members.

Shelley

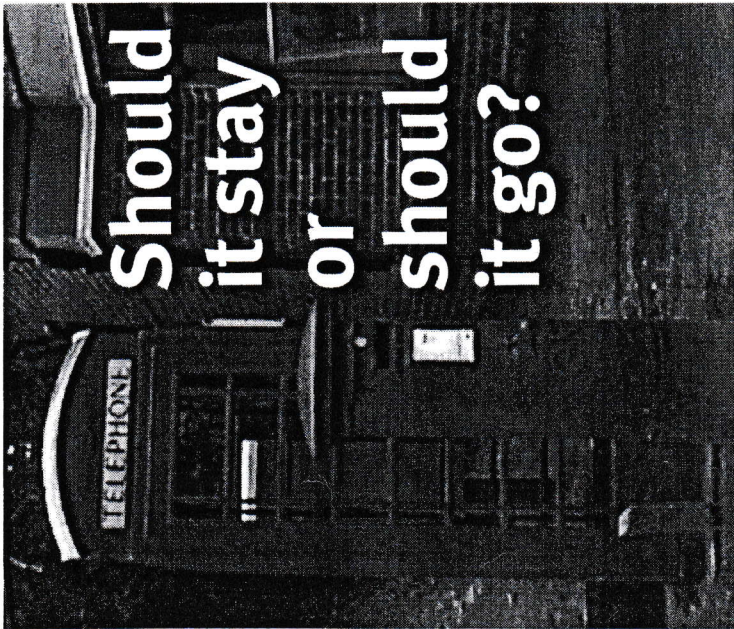
Onslow Village Market?

You may have noticed that Williams' Newsagents now stock a few items of locally-made produce: if

you already make and sell things like fudge, flapjacks, cakes, jam, marmalade, honey, chocolates, sweets, bread etc and would be interested in selling through Williams' shop, Mark Williams would like to hear from you. Please contact him via the shop (01483 450450) or by email to mark@williamsnews.net



Windsor Cise



BT is proposing to remove the telephone box in The Square, because it doesn't cover its costs. Residents in the vicinity were sent a letter asking for their comments and Guildford Borough Council received 18 letters against the proposal. The Council itself decided to object; details can be seen on GBC's website (Planning Applications) under the reference 08/C/00025.

The box was the subject of a previous threat some years ago, when BT wanted to replace it with a more modern kiosk. This was rejected on the grounds that the new style was inappropriate in a conservation area and the old red box stayed.

However, despite the disappearance of the other two kiosks in the village during the last few years (one in Curling Vale which wasn't replaced after it was demolished by a car and the other which was removed from Friars Gate) the usage of the box in The Square is apparently still not enough to make it financially viable.

It has been suggested that even if the telephone equipment is removed, the box itself could be 'adopted' by the residents and retained as a feature. We await the next stage of the consultation.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

If you would like to tell Onslow Village residents about your group's forthcoming events, or issues that might interest them, please email mdk-ovra@ntlworld.com or ring 07597 568315. Next copy date: 25th September.

Recycling News

The garden shredders are proving very popular in the Village. If you would like to join the Shredder Group it costs only £15 a year and you can use a shredder whenever you like, subject to availability. There are four shredders so there is probably one near you. There is a short session for training and registration, about half an hour – contact me for details.

If you are having trouble with your compost, telephone me as I may be able to help. I also have a leaflet that explains everything you might need to know about composting. Don't forget that any hard plastic – children's toys, plant pots, garden furniture, etc – can be taken to Slyfield for recycling.

The Guildford Borough Council Community Recyclers are

OVRA EVENTS – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 9th Sept Fungus is not the Bogeyman
Michael Jordan from The Association of British Fungus Groups will give a talk about fungi and their value in the survival of native trees, especially if we are heading for climate change.

Tues 14th Oct The History of Brooklands
A talk by Mike Goodall from Brooklands Museum

Tues 11th Nov The Stars above Onslow Village & Space News
A talk about astronomy by Bill Turnill

Sat 31st Jan Annual Party
Look out for details and ticket prices in the Village Voice or on posters

Tues 10th Feb How to be a Successful Failure
Back by popular demand, Bill Bellerby will talk about his long and varied career; an entertaining evening is guaranteed!

Tues 10th Mar AGM + speaker
Details to be confirmed

All events will be held at the Village Hall in The Square, Wilderness Road and will start at 7.30pm. Tuesday talks are **free for members**, non-members are welcome at £3 each.

NB Details are correct at time of printing, but *may be subject to change*. Please look out for announcements in The Village Voice, on posters or in special flyers.

Can anyone help me?

I am trying to contact Chris Cheeseman who lived at 1 or 10 Curling Vale when he and I completed our National Service 1954/56; I believe he was employed as a bank clerk with NatWest at the time. We were stationed at RAF Patrington, East Yorkshire and spent some 18 months together exploring the delights of Hull and Withernsea. I suspect he will have long since moved, but someone may know where he is. I would appreciate any information you can give me. Thank you in hope and anticipation. *Vere Shuttleworth*

Guildford Evening Decorative & Fine Arts Society

Wednesday 10th September will see the welcome return, after the summer break, of GEDFAS autumn/winter season of talks in Onslow Village Hall.

Refreshments from 7.15pm. Talks at 8pm. We welcome new members and visitors (charge £5) and the committee look forward to seeing you at the hall. For membership details, contact Mrs Angela Logan on 01483 833485.

Wed 10th Sept **The Influence of the Japanese Print on Western Painting** For example, prints such as Hokusai's Mount Fuji and Great Waves, to paintings by Degas and Whistler.

Wed 8th Oct 7.30pm (please note earlier time) **The Drama**

campaigning to reduce the number of single use plastic bags. We are often to be seen at the High Street Farmers' Market, giving away free cotton bags in exchange for a pledge to use reusable shopping bags. We have also visited many shops in the High Street area to find out the retailers' policy regarding plastic bags and have generally received extremely positive responses. It is a great help that companies like Secretts Garden Centre at Milford and Marks & Spencer will shortly be charging for plastic bags.

TOP TIPS – If you break a plate, don't bin the pieces – they make great 'crock' for the bottom of plant pots to stop the roots getting waterlogged.

Use your old coffee grounds as mulch for plants or simply put them in the compost – there are tons of good nutrients and other stuff in coffee or used teabags. Coffee grounds also keep slugs at bay.

You can add pet bedding from guinea pigs, rabbits etc to your compost.

If you don't have a compost heap, you can dig a hole in the soil and bury your vegetable scraps (don't add meat or fish in case you attract vermin!).

For further information on any of the above please contact Lesley on 01483 533762.

Guildford County School Community Choir

The GCS Community Choir welcomes parents, governors, staff and 'friends' of Guildford County School.

Anyone who enjoys singing a wide variety of music, from classical to popular, would appreciate the atmosphere of this group. There are no auditions.

The choir meets between 6.30pm and 8pm on a Tuesday evening in school and anyone who would like more information should contact:

The Community Arts Manager on 01483 504089 or email cam@guildfordcounty.surrey.sch.uk

Greyfriars Vineyard

Open Weekends for Wine Tastings and Sales:

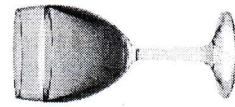
Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th September

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September

10am till 4pm

Phone 01483 813712

Website: www.greyfriarsvineyard.com



Behind the Rajivarian A survey of the life and times of the Indian Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan.

Wed 12th Nov **Stained Glass of York Minster** This talk by a world expert promises a wealth of stained glass, illustrated by details only seen during conservation projects.

Wed 10th Dec 7.30pm (please note earlier time) **Prelude to Christmas through Music, Art and Poetry** Lecture/recital with a three piece ensemble: recorder, viol and harpsichord.

FUND RAISING EVENING

On Saturday 8th November 7.30pm, we are holding an entertaining fund raising evening with a supper, at Onslow Village Hall. This will be an amusing hands-on investigation of "Objects from a Cabinet of Curiosities" with Christopher Hawkins. Tickets are available at £12 from 01483 571807 or 01483 566704.

Watts Gallery

Celebrations are taking place following news that the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded the £4.3 million grant that will enable the restoration project to begin in the autumn. To secure this lifeline, Watts Gallery has had to raise almost £4 million, which has been made possible by the wonderful efforts and generosity of the local community, trusts, foundations and individuals. Thank you to everyone who has supported us.

Watts Gallery: A Journey Of Hope Due to popular demand we are staying open for an additional four weeks. The last day open to the public will now be 28 September. For more information, visit www.wattsgallery.org.uk or call 01483 813591.



RSPB Guildford & District Local Group

From September to April we meet in the Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month at 2.15pm and on the fourth Wednesday at 7.45pm. Non-members are welcome (£2 entrance fee).

Illustrated talks cover birds and wildlife throughout the world. Additionally the group organizes a variety of Field Meetings throughout the year for members, with occasional Public Walks.

For more information on the Group and its activities, please contact the Group Leader, Roger Beck, on 01483 282417.

mdk-ovra@ntlworld.com with any information and it will be passed on to Vere.)

CONTACTING OVRA

Please use the form below to apply for membership, or to give us your comments, views and suggestions. Please clearly address the envelope to "OVRA" and deliver it to one of the following addresses:

9 Farm Walk 50 High View Road
17 Friars Gate 68 High View Road
41 Hedgeway 10 Vicarage Gate
46 High View Road 14 Windsor Close

If you would like a copy of the Association's rules, or to receive reminders about forthcoming events, news of local importance etc by email, please contact the Hon. Secretary Lesley Goode on 01483 533762 or email OVRAsec@gmail.com

VILLAGE VOICE 14 REPLY SLIP

Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

E-mail address:

You can unsubscribe at any time and we will not pass your details to any third party

Membership (runs from 1 April–31 March)

I would like to join the Association/renew my membership and enclose £4 per household. (Please make cheques payable to OVRA).

Comments/views/suggestions:

Please hand this form in at a social event, send it to one of the addresses above or email your comments to mdk-ovra@ntlworld.com.